

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please insert the attached new page 31 containing an Abstract of the Disclosure as the last page of the application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please make the following claim amendments to the Article 19 claim amendments.**

4. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that the plastic film consists of one of the following materials: polyester, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyimide.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that one side of the thin brittle metal strip (1) is brought into contact with a first self-adhering polymer film (3), the nanocrystalline strip (1) thus being able to be handled, in that the second side of the thin brittle metal strip (1) is brought into contact with a second film (3') made of a self-adhering plastic, in that pressure is applied to the laminated strip (6) consisting of the thin brittle metal strip (1) between the two films of polymer material (3, 3') and in that a mechanical operation, for example a cutting operation, is carried out on the laminated strip (6).

6. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of laminated strips (6, 7a, 7b, 7c) each having a coating layer consisting of a plastic film precoated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive on at least one of its sides are produced, in that the plurality of laminated strips (6, 7a, 7b, 7c) are superposed and joined together by adhesion in order to obtain a laminated composite strip (11) and in that a mechanical operation, for example a cutting operation, is carried out on the laminated composite strip (11).

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

7. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that the pressure-sensitive adhesive substance of the self-adhering plastic film precoated with adhesive is a crosslinkable substance and in that a crosslinking heat treatment is carried out on the coating layer adhering to the thin metal strip.

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the reactive adhesive polymer material is deposited on at least one side of the thin metal strip (1) by one of the following processes: coating, spraying, dipping.

13. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that thin brittle metal strip (1) is a strip made of a soft magnetic alloy material having a nanocrystalline structure, that is to say containing at least 50 vol % of fine crystals having a size of less than 100 nm, obtained by casting the soft magnetic material in the form of an amorphous strip and by heat treatment of the amorphous strip, the thin metal strip (1) being covered, in one of its amorphous or nanocrystalline states, on at least one side with a coating layer comprising at least one polymer film.

15. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 14, characterized in that the thin strip of nanocrystalline material has a thickness of around 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 13, characterized in that the soft magnetic material contains iron, copper, niobium, silicon and boron, or iron, zirconium, boron and possibly copper and silicon.

18. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 13, characterized in that the strip of soft magnetic material is covered in the amorphous state with a complex mixture consisting of

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

solvents, polymer binders, aluminates, silicates and fluxes, in that the strip covered with the coating layer is dried, in that a plurality of coated and dried amorphous strips are produced, in that the plurality of coated amorphous strips are superposed, in that the coated amorphous strips undergo a first curing operation, in order to obtain an amorphous/polymer composite laminated strip, in that components are cut from the composite strip, in that the cut components are heat treated at a temperature allowing a nanocrystalline structure to develop in the amorphous strips and allowing the aluminate/silicate/flux mixture to vitrify, in order to obtain cut shaped components comprising laminated nanocrystalline layers and vitrified layers.

20. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that that step in which the thin strip (1) is subjected to stresses is a mechanical cutting operation.

21. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, employing a step of chemically cutting a thin metal strip (30) coated on one of its sides with a coating layer (31) made of polymer material.